

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

G/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 1614

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS CARACAS 5501

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SUBJ: ANDEAN BLOC TELECOMMUNICATIONS MEETING

SUMMARY. A SUCCESSFUL FIRST MEETING ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE CARTAGENA AGREEMENT WAS HELD IN CARACAS FROM MAY 13 THROGH MAY 16. ALTHOUGH MUCH OF THE MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO FUTURE PLANS ON A REGIONAL OR SUB-REGIONAL BASIS, SEVERAL COUNTRIES WERE ABLE TO REPORT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN COMPLETION OR NEAR COMPLETION OS SPECIFIC PROJECTS.

1. THE FIRST MEETING ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE CARTAGENA AGREEMENT BEGAN MAY 13 IN CARACAS UNDER THE UNCLASSIFIED

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AUSPICES OF ASETA, THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS

ENTERPRISES OF THE ANDEAN SUB-REGIONAL AGREEMENT. OBSERVERS FROM ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, MEXICO, SPAIN AND ITALY WERE PRESENT.

2. THE MEETING STUDIED AND DISCUSSED SUB-REGIONAL RESOURCES IN THE FIELD OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INCLUDING RADIO BROADCAST AND TELEVISION.

HUMAN, TECHNICAL, INDUSTRIAL AND MARKETING DETAILS WERE STUDIED AND THE INTENTION HAS BEEN EXPRESSED TO HAVE A FULLY INTEGRATED RADIO BROADCAST AND TELEVISION NETWORK WITHIN TWO YEARS. THE POSSIBILITY OF PRODUCING TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, ESPECIALLY TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT, WITHIN THE REGION WAS STUDIED DOWN TO MARKETING DETAILS.

3. VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS PRESENTED PAPERS OUTLINING THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES WITH SOME OVERALL INDICATIONS REGARDING THE INTENTIONS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR OWN FACILITIES. THE DEPENDENCY OF SOME COUNTRIES ON THE SERVICES OF MULTINATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES MENTIONED. THE COLOMBIAN DELEGATE PRESENTED A PAPER ON THE POSSIBLE APPLICATION OF TELEPATHY, CITING STUDIES PRESENTLY BEING CONDUCTED IN COLOMBIA AND IN THE SOVIET UNION.

4. VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES QUESTIONED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE RESULTS OF THE MEETING EXPRESSED A FEELING OF MODERATE EXPECTATION AND STATED THAT IT WOULD BE IN VENEZUELA'S INTEREST TO ACHIEVE BETTER TELEPHONE, CABLE AND TELEX SERVICES WITHIN THE REGION AND THAT THE COUNTRY HOPES TO ESTABLISH SOME COOPERATION AMONG TV STATIONS IN THE EXCHANGE OF PROGRAMS AND USE OF SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS FOR DIRECT TRANSMISSION OF LIVE TV PROGRAMS OF GENERAL INTEREST AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES.

5. SEVERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE MADE DURING THE SECOND AND THIRD DAYS OF THE CONFERENCE. ECUADOR ANNOUNCED THE NEAR COMPLETION OF ITS INTERNAL MICROWAVE SYSTEM AND BOLIVIA REPORTED THAT THE MICROWAVE CONNECTION WITH PERU AND CHILE HAS BEEN COMPLETED. 6. WIDE BAND COMMUNICATIONS CHILE-PERU AND COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA HAVE BEEN PUT INTO OPERATIONS, WHILE A PROVISIONAL UHF CONNECTION ECUADOR-PERU AND BOLIVIA-PERU WILL BE OPERATING IN AUGUST OF 1975.

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7. BOLIVIA EXPECTS TO HAVE ITS SATELLITE RECEIVER STATION SOON, WHEREBY ALL ANDEAN BLOC COUNTRIES WILL BE PROVIDED WITH THIS FACILITY, THUS ENABLING THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT TV PROGRAMMING.

8. VENEZUELA ANNOUNCED THAT SEMI-AUTOMATIC AND DIRECT DIALING TELEPHONE, TELEX AND DATA TRANSMISSION CIRCUITS WILL BE

AVAILABLE AMONG ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES THIS YEAR. THE PRESIDENT OF CANTV, THE GOVERNMENT TELEPHONE COMPANY, ANNOUNCED THAT THE 1975-1980 NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLAN PRESENTLY BEING DRAWN UP IS INTENDED TO INCREASE THE PRESENT NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS FROM 42,000 TO 1 MILLION BY 1981, AND SATISFY 80 PERCENT OF DEMAND AS OPPOSED TO 51 PERCENT DEMAND CURRENTLY BEING SATISFIED.

9. CANTV FURTHERMORE INTENDS TO PROMOTE THE MANUFACTURE IN VENEZUELA OF DESK TELEPHONES AND EXCHANGES. THE COMPANY PRESENTLY SPENDS BS. 400 MILLION ANNUALLY ON EQUIPMENT IMPORTS. IT ESTIMATES CONSTRUCTION OF DOMESTIC PLANT WOULD COST BS. 500 MILLION. INTERNAL DEMAND IS ESTIMATED TO BE 120,000 SETS PER YEAR, 100,000 NEW SUBSCRIBERS AND 200 KILOMETERS OF CABLE PAIRS. CANTV FEELS THAT THIS DEMAND, PLUS THE NECESSARY EXCHANGE EQUIPMENT, COULD BE SATISFIED DOMESTICALLY.

1. COMMENT: TECHNICAL COMPETENCE IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM FOR ALL OF THE ANDEAN BLOC. THIS IS MANIFESTED BY THE FACT THAT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS ARE USUALLY DONE BY FOREIGN CONSULTANTS CONTRACTED FOR THIS ENDEAVOR. OTHER MAJOR INHIBITING FACTORS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENTS IN MOST OF THE AREA ARE LACK OF FUNDS AND STRONG COMPETITION FROM HIGHER PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.
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